

I had crawled into the same cave after what I thought was a dead bear. It was a most foolhardy thing to do; instead of one dead bear there were two live ones within and I was fortunate to escape with my life!

* For the last 3 or 4 years bears have been tearing off the bark of fir trees planted nearby; it was evident that some of the bark had been consumed. The period referred to covers a succession of very dry years. Bears normally eat little during their mating season; when this coincides with abnormally dry years it is likely they will go for the bark of certain trees (the bark of *Kydia calycina* is a favourite food of elephants). It is presumed the Silver Oak shade saplings were 'tasted' in hunger; or smashed in an abandon of temper.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN P.O.,
VIA MYSORE,
June 20, 1952.

R. C. MORRIS

3. CASES OF UNWOUNDED GAUR OR INDIAN BISON (*BIBOS GAURUS*) CHARGING

In Vol. 48, No. 3 of the Society's *Journal* I referred to a case of a solitary bull bison's apparently unprovoked charge when met on a path in evergreen jungle. For some days a tiger had been harassing bison in this area. About the same time another case occurred of a bison charging a well-known sportsman at the foot of the Nilgiris as it trotted out of a tiger-beat. This bull also had not been fired at.

More recently, two beaters were killed by a bull bison in a tiger beat, the animal charging them at close quarters.

In each case a tiger was in the area. 'Nerves' induced by the presence of tiger and/or, possibly the noise of a beat, would appear to infuriate unwounded bulls which are then apt to charge intruders or beaters.

In my lifetime in India quite a number of instances have occurred to refute the assertion that no unwounded gaur will attack.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN P.O.,
VIA MYSORE,
June 23, 1952.

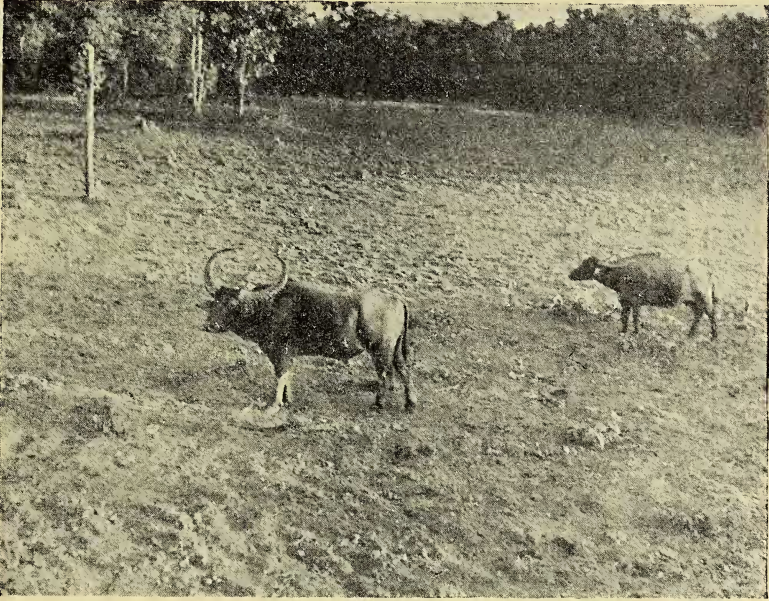
R. C. MORRIS

4. WILD BUFFALOES AND TAME

(With a photo)

In Narayanpur tahsil of Bastar district a wild buffalo bull had been driven out from the wild herd and had become solitary. Subsequently a herd of tame buffaloes was taken into his jungle for summer grazing. He killed the stud bull of this herd and used to accompany the tame

animals during the day in the jungle. In the evening he used to bring the herd back to the encampment and then leave, to meet them again the next morning when they reached the jungle. The accompanying photograph was taken when he was returning in the evening



with the herd. The cow in the picture is a tame one, which however always accompanied him even when he left the herd at night. The close companionship between these two animals was extremely unusual; it seemed to be much more than just sexual.

JAGDALPUR P.O.,
DISTRICT BASTAR, M.P.,
June 21, 1952.

R. P. NORONHA

[A review in *The Oriental Sporting Magazine* 1877, p. 267 of Capt. Baldwin's 'The Large & Small Game of Bengal' reads in part:

'The Assamese keep no tame bull buffaloes so they are dependent on the wild bulls for keeping up the breed. They let their cows loose and a wild bull soon finds them out, takes possession of a herd and will not leave it till he has been either killed, or so wounded by various devices as to be glad to leave their vicinity. We have frequently shot these bulls at the request of the villagers. They lose all fear of man, and often will not allow the cows to be picketed at night and even if they are so tethered, the bull remains close by all night, and in the morning returns with them into the long grass. Sometimes villagers are killed by them'.—Eds.]